

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

DECISION RECORD and FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Whittaker Recreation Site Water System Upgrade  
Environmental Assessment No. OR-090-EA-01-14

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the proposed action or alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995), with which this EA is in conformance, and does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

**DECISION:**

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) OR-090-01-14 and the Finding Of No Significant Impact it is my decision to select the proposed action, Alternative 1. All the project design features and mitigating measures identified in this EA will be implemented to mitigate any impacts to existing habitat and resources. In addition, all required mitigation measures in pending Biological Opinions, from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will also be implemented.

**DECISION RATIONAL**

The proposed Action was selected because it best meets the goals and objectives of ecologically operating safe recreation sites. The upgrade to the water system is a needed and prudent project for health and safety reasons. The proposed action is tiered to and is in conformance with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, April 1994 (ROD)* , and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, June 1995 (Eugene District ROD/RMP)* as amended by the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management January 2001*.

Watershed analysis has been completed for the Upper Siuslaw Watershed. The proposed action is in conformance with the document's recommendations and findings.

The proposed power line installation will have no effect on the Bureau Tracking Species *Cimicifuga*

elata. This species has been seen near highway 126. Botanical surveys in the vicinity have not resulted in a documented presence of this or any other species of concern within the areas that could potentially be disturbed during the installation.

Construction equipment will be cleaned to remove mud, debris, and vegetation material prior to arriving at the project site in order to decrease the potential for the spread of noxious weeds and nonnative plants during the proposed water system upgrade. Disturbed areas will be seeded with a native species mixture after the construction is completed.

No cultural resources have been found in the project vicinity.

## **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, formal consultation has been initiated with the USFWS regarding the proximity of potential Murrelet and Spotted Owl habitat to the proposed project and the possible audio disturbance caused by the construction activities. A Biological Assessment was submitted to the USFWS. According to this Biological Assessment installation activities during the less sensitive period of the nesting season may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Federally listed Endangered spotted owl and marbled murrelet. The USFWS is expected to issue Biological Opinion on this proposal later this summer. This action will not take place prior to the issuance of this Opinion.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, formal consultation has been initiated with the NMFS in July 2001 regarding the installation of the powerline along the Siuslaw River Road. A Biological Assessment addressing this proposal related to the Federally listed coho was submitted this summer to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Because of the potential for siltation of the Siuslaw River this action would have a may affect, not likely to adversely affect, to the coho and other fishes. The NMFS response, in the form of a Biological Opinion, is expected prior to on-the-ground work. This action will not take place prior to the issuance of this Opinion.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Both the EA and preliminary FONSI were advertised in the Eugene Register-Guard on June 20, 2001, as available for a 15-day public review period. Copies of the EA and preliminary FONSI were mailed to interested individuals on our mailing list. One comment letter was received from an interested organization. Their comments and concerns were considered and responded to in a separate letter. Copies of the original EA and FONSI are available for viewing at Eugene District Office and on the internet at <http://www.edo.or.blm.gov/nepa/>

Signed by J. O. I. Williams, acting Coast Range Field Manager on July 9, 2001.